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3611
PATENT

3/Pre a
J. Smith
6/20/00
See OK

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Douglas P. Campbell et al
Serial No. : 09/371,776
Filing Date : August 10, 1999
For : INFLATOR
Attorney Docket No. : TRW(VSSIM) 4295
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-1400

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application,
entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add the following claims:

18. An apparatus for helping to protect an occupant of a
vehicle that has a side structure, said apparatus comprising:
an inflatable vehicle occupant protection device
that is inflatable into a position between the side structure
of the vehicle and a vehicle occupant; and
an inflator for inflating said inflatable vehicle
occupant protection device and for maintaining said inflatable
vehicle occupant protection device in an inflated condition
for at least seven seconds, said inflator containing a stored
inflation fluid under pressure, said inflation fluid
consisting essentially of helium.